



## State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814

Phone: (916) 341-5254 Fax: (916) 341-5252

Web site: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov> • Email: [info@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info@waterboards.ca.gov)

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Contact: Public Affairs  
916-341-5254

### **STATE WATER BOARDS FUNDS ORANGE COUNTY RECYCLED WATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

*Loan and Grants totals \$204,831,346.*

**SACRAMENTO**—Recognizing the need to conserve water, the State Water Board today welcomes the completion of the State Water Board-funded Groundwater Replenishment System Project.

The Orange County Water District's project is funded in part with a loan from the State Water Board's State Revolving Fund and is the largest project of its kind in the world, and is a model for the United States. Several other cities (San Jose, Monterey and Denver) are looking at similar projects. It is located in the City of Fountain Valley and several Orange County cities from Huntington Beach to Anaheim.

The project consists of recycled water pipelines, pump stations, injection wells and treatment facilities able to produce 78,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water using secondary effluent from the Orange County Sanitation District. The recycled water provided by this project augments the District's water supply.

"Efficient use of water is critical to maintain California's economy and quality of life," said State Water Board chair, Tam M. Doduc. "One of the goals of the State Water Board is to encourage balanced and efficient use of imported and local water supplies, recycling and conservation. One of the ways we can stretch our available water supplies is to recycle treated wastewater rather than discarding it into streams or the ocean," Doduc said.

Water Board member Frances-Spivy Weber observed, "Everyone in Southern California has become more aware of the finite amount of water available. That is before we calculate the disruption climate change is likely to cause. It is only common sense that we use water in the wisest possible manner and that we reuse it to the extent that technology makes possible. The Orange County project is a major step in that direction and I am proud the State Water Board was able to help."

The new Advanced Water Treatment Facility will replace the old water factory built nearly 30 years ago to supply reclaimed water to the Talbert Gap seawater intrusion barrier. The increased recycled water production will reinforce and



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expand the original barrier, provide for additional groundwater recharge of the local basins, and reduce or eliminate the need for additional outfall capacity for the Orange County Sanitation District's wastewater treatment plant.

The processes include micro-filtration, reverse osmosis and ultra-violet (UV) disinfection to meet Department of Health Services and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements.

Additional funds were awarded through Proposition 13 (2000) which included a \$5 million grant through the Water Recycling Funding Program and a \$37 million grant through the Southern California Integrated Watershed Program to assist in construction of the facilities.

The State Water Board provides financial assistance to local agencies in the form of low-interest loans and grants for the planning and construction of water recycling projects throughout California.

Since the 1980s, the State Water Board has distributed \$105 million in grants and \$508 million in low interest loans for water recycling projects. The source of these funds has come from the various bond measures such as Propositions 13 and 50, and the State Revolving Fund (SRF).

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